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# FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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FROM : American Consulate General, DHAHRAN

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

REF : Contels 665, 666 and 672

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| | REC'D 5-26 | OTHER CIA-12 USIA | |

SUBJECT: King Saud in Aramco Hospital, Dhahran

King Saud left Riyadh for the al-Kharj Farm on two hours' notice May 14. On May 15 two Aramco doctors, specialized in hypertension, were flown to al-Kharj to examine him. The next day a special train was sent to the oasis to bring the King and a small party to the Aramco hospital in Dhahran.

The Royal party arrived in Dhahran at about 1700 May 17 and the King went directly to a prepared suite in the hospital. In five bedrooms of the suite not reserved for the personal use of the King, ten beds were installed. There were attempts by camp followers to insinuate themselves into the suite but these were forestalled. The persons remaining in the Royal suite were:

1. H. H. Amir Muhammad ibn TURKI (a great favorite of the King and characterized as "he with the roving eye").

2. H. E. Shaikh 'Abdallah al-SA'DUN (another favorite of the King - a white bearded old shaikh of the Muntafiq of Iraq).

3. Dr. Adib al'ANTAKI (King's personal physician).

4. Shaikh Abdallah al-TUBAISHI (acting as major-domo. He is a young man who studied in the States, speaks good English).

5. The King's masseur called by other members of the party "the German doctor". The Consulate General has been unable to get his name.

6-10. Servants, four of whom appear to be slaves.

General Sa'id JAUDAT, Commander of the Royal Guard, apparently spent the first night at the hospital though in whose bed is not known.

The presence of the King has put a great responsibility on Aramco. Although there is a no visitor rule placed by his doctors and reinforced by the Amir Saud bin JILUWI, the King has a constant flow of visitors for whom tea is made. Upholstered chairs have been taken from the Aramco general offices to form a small majalis. Yesterday a sudden request was made to Aramco's BAG Services for thirty bathing suits, one kingsize, beef bone marrow, eggplant, 500 paper plates and no cups. A beach party and picnic at Half Moon Bay was being arranged for

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His Majesty. The party took place yesterday evening. However, it is reported that the King did not go in the water.

Last night Radio Mecca broadcast a bulletin from the Office of the President of the Council of Ministers which carried a medical status report on the King over the signatures of Dr. Page and Dr. Leslie F. MC COY. The King had been suffering from fatigue but had no serious illness. He is to remain in the hospital a few more days. The report states that he will leave the hospital May 24 to continue his visit to the Eastern Province.

COMMENT: The King's physical appearance surprised and shocked some of his old friends in Aramco. He looked "unwell, dazed" and gave "only barest sign of recognition" of friends. However, a few days of relative quiet seem to have improved his condition considerably. The doctors attending the King say that he has been an excellent and most amenable patient. Most of the difficulties at the hospital have been caused by the demands of his entourage.

FOR THE CONSUL GENERAL:

Ralph K Lewis

Ralph K. Lewis
American Consul

cc: Amembassy, JIDDA